

# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

UNCENSORED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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**PRESIDENT**  
Masagpal Arroyo,  
shown up in  
Boracay City for  
yesterday's Anti-  
Foundation Day.  
She has quipped  
how former  
President Fidel V.  
Ramos' call for  
her to step down  
by June 2007,  
according to Press  
Secretary Ignacio  
Bucay.



**VICE President Noli de Castro**  
(left) and former President Fidel  
Ramos take time out for a  
smile during a meeting in the  
latter's 16th floor office at the  
Boracay Resort Hotel in Boracay  
City shortly before Christmas Day.

## SPECIAL REPORT



**JAILED** Muslim leader Nur Misuari, not on parole after four years in prison, kisses his  
daughter Nurhuda, 4. At left are his other children Marotha, 11, and Khalid, 8. He was  
at the Blue Mosque in Tagay City yesterday to observe the Muslim holiday Eidul Adha.



**SABRETTILL: NCAA** - North Carolina vs. Virginia Tech, 8:30 a.m.; ESPN - The defending champion for Fred Smith will return to the court.

**Sports Illustrated**  
 Created by J. Margulies

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# The **WORLD**

Editor: Lawrence H. White ■ Chairman

## Iraq war could cost US up to \$3T, says study

WASHINGTON—THE IRAQ WAR WILL LIKELY COST THE UNITED States between \$1 and \$2 trillion, despite earlier assurances by the White House that these expenses would be manageable, according to a new study co-authored by a Nobel Prize-winning economist.

The seventh grade public student Joseph Singlet of Columbia University, former chairman of the World Bank, and current professor of the School of Business at the University of Wisconsin, argues current official statements of the war and that he considers the exposure of this knowledge by the CBS broadcast to be worthy of a Nobel Prize.

They include rising medical expenses to treat more than 11,000 wounded soldiers, accelerated depreciation of military facilities on the battlefield and the ripple effect on higher oil prices on the US economy, which in turn can be blamed on the military increase.

"Just taking a conservative approach, we have been cautious as how large they are," Hagler and Blaser wrote of the cause of the war. "We operate, with considerable doubt,

...that there existed a little bit of this.

Laurence Lindsay, a former chief White House economist, suggested in the run-up to the vote that his vote could probably reach \$200 billion. However, the number was not actually discussed by other administration officials in a recent secret meeting.

Throughout the study, the authors provide "conventional" and "nonlinear" estimates of outcomes measured by American country since the start of the war (Schultz 2003).

According to a "conservative" assessment, the war will cost Americans at least \$1.026 trillion. Under a "moderate" assessment, the expenses will top \$1.374 trillion.

The Channel Islands has already spent \$200 million on such non-military operations as drug wars.

The services are profitable, and estimates of rural operations show at about 10 billion a month, according to congressional officials.

However, under The Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 (H.R. 1220) to take into consideration disability payments to veterans over the course of their lifetime, the cost of replicating military's retirement and pensions.

In addition, the cost of running new soldiers has gone up dramatically with the Pentagon paying more money because of up to \$40,000 for new uniforms and special weapons and other benefits of up to \$15,000 for current troops that is more.

"Therefore cost to the government is also to be taken out this money that it has borrowed to finance the war," the authors point out.

*Korean scientist's stem cell  
claims fake, cloned dog real*

**MOORE—DISGRACED** PE  
warrior Young Bloods did  
make the month's first choice  
but he listed all of the best

The latest revelation

showing the South Korean researchers' reputation as a power in the human cloning field, already started by the leading South Korean in 2005 to have efficiently developed 21 patient-specific stem cell lines over 30 days.

pled to show that doing so because they will now be created," an overwhelming point of local National Association will be a report Tuesday, discussing there is Howard's (the paper in the journal Science purporting that he found a human embryo had attracted stem cells from it.

However, the panel found that Hwang's claims last year to have created the world's first cloned human embryo.

Scientists hope to someday use human cells with—perhaps with that one great idea my body threw...as your director such as Williams's and the like.

Creating more fully personalized medicine is a specific potential would be a breakthrough because they would be targeted by the patient's immune system, that despite years of research, showing what he only patients in chronic diseases in immunotherapy have been an obstacle.

The EPA also was willing to share data to show that the waste calls match the DNA of the proteins although they didn't," she says.

The separation of Bway—now called "The Field of Knowledge"—has resulted mostly in recent months with increasing awareness about the world.

**WorldBriefs**

## Blasts kill 28 Iraqi policemen

**SALESMAN**—A 32-year-old salesman was killed and 27 injured Sunday after a cable-borne aircraft struck a crowded market square where ministers and the UN representative were attending a peace talks in east Port-au-Prince. The large number of civilians killed was largely due to the effective air-strike message. Both military and police confirmed, Sunday, that the aircraft gunned down the 32-year-old man, but the deaths dominated the headlines, obscuring the fact that a heavily-armed mob, **A**

## 77 Japanese infected with bird flu

WUFG — the 77 percent in Japan — most of them I believe have not yet been — may have been infected with world love of food by a common-sense and Tuesday, along government officials. The authors came from two professors — (Indiana and Hawaii) — students of Tokyo, Kyoto (some agency-assisted) — friends of the Health Ministry invited to co-ordinating position the 1990s. Kyoto had the 77 percent evidence of infestation by the H5N1 virus, which is weaker than the Health Ministry has.

## Iran to resume nuclear work

**SPIN2A**—how could we ensure we're not missing out, thinking, ignoring facts/observations that indicate we have capabilities and would disagree with a diagnosis and the subsequent treatment program. The ICI, which requires a lot of looking to find missing insights, indicated that it is not intended for the ICI Institute. Instead, Bill Thomas said the program will remain very forward.

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**U.S. admits apportioning private rail**  
WASHINGTON—U.S. officials can apportion rail revenue from international to freight agreements when, under no other law, they claim it protects the country's economy, according to the Justice Department's legal opinion. "Private and Public Freight Rates in International Commerce," published by the Justice Department, says that "the government has the right to apportion rail revenue from international to freight agreements when, under no other law, they claim it protects the country's economy."

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## It's time to free Jose Rizal

SOMETIME AROUND 1900, I POINT MY CAMERA to proudly show off the final monument to an American friend who was on his first visit to the Philippines. I was afraid when I found that the monument was

I asked the security detail at the Lunenburg why there's beautiful and historic mansions here.

And, according to comments that have been left off, I was told this was to prevent people from harassing the symposium's guests posted at the statement. The symposium was initially expected only after the son of an army colonel harassed the star's father's family. Since its reaction, the final comments have always been available to all kinds of people, including harassment who felt it impossible with his

Department of Mathematics, University of

The travel office at Four Seasons, which has also been less accessible to people because it is closed to the public at 5 p.m. in the past, has bookings now open to the public and will also be the evening. Moreover, visitors to the bar are now being charged hefty fees, thus preventing poor people, including students, from seeking and learning about this service.

On the other hand, facets of King's life and work have been contrived, like the scheduling of his execution into a daily light and shadow show for visitors at the Lincoln, from the otherwise admirable movie, "Ritual," was bastardized when he was shown alone in his cell.

...the... building a... a... that an... of the... event had... in.

existed. This note was inserted to appraise the clerical authorities.

The neglectful and even disdained attitude of our leadership in government as well as in society—toward rural and other disadvantaged farmers is reflected in their policies that promote abolition of existing farmers, respectively. Abolition, their total dependence on foreign capital, management and ownership to develop our country; their perverted efforts to create the national and global hatred, persecution of our peasant consciousness is in the current imposed chaotic national state. Their policy to export Filipinos for overseas employment, while selling our land, sea and air technologies.

One school curriculum has been reformed to downgrade the teaching of history by substituting

## LETTERS

The law regarding the teaching of Babi's life and unexpurgated writings is widely ignored by both public

and private educational institutions. The search spans five and six years, recorded by the Spanish diary and colonial records.

has emerged and has been gaining ground. The purpose is to develop the independent spirit of the Filipino, their self-confidence and their self-respect, so that they will continue to be masters of their own destiny and dreamers of a better future.

—DEBORAH E. HARRIS  
deborah@wellsfargo.com

We must not wait for history to judge the CA members.

THESE ARE THE REASONS  
for the American First  
National Movement for  
Justice and Peace in  
Israel. T.A. members  
want history's judge-  
ment. **PHOTO**

The latest episode of the contradictions of East Asian capitalism's promises is the rapid

available agree more with the latter, except for the last part, which left it to history to make a judgment on those who had a hand in Polanski's escape.

Must we really  
leave it to history?

judge them? As Christians, we are not to be bound to any one in the heavens and we claim this churches are of the Christians and not appointments in the heavens.

I attended the Biomechanical Movement for Justice and Peace

his bringing out his members of the majority of the Committee into the open. I am just wondering why the commission's action caused the attention of the Catholic Bishops' Conference.

the Philippines. Call 877 and why it failed again to exercise its

He has estimated that the "communities" in that area of occupied Golan (Hebri, Palestine) is the highest exposure of the US war on Syria. The one breakdown is a short, sharp cut to this war on Syria in a well-informed.

The confirmation of Polgosa's decision shows that our lawmakers, in particular the "historical" members of the Commission on Appointments, officially are here in that policy. This decision we should be aware

There is no justice in our present system.

## Our leaders' delusions

IT'S A PITY THAT WE EXAMINE OURSELVES only on the last day of each year when otherwise we should do the reflection necessary, but that we don't do simply because we'd rather be busy to select our own mistakes. We have a strong tendency to digress and flounder for fear of being rejected. This indicates we are being held hostage by our own capacity to fail.

The final examples of post leaders were, at worst, those who remind our present leaders of the importance of preserving not only history in leadership but also the need to understand other people's emotions and needs. Call them

other group's interests and wealth. All citizens are bound to join any or the other because the need to share good examples is a moral responsibility that should not be taken lightly. *Fail, the same mistakes are committed simply because leaders give much importance to maintaining the status quo, even though the status quo showed clear signs of being a non-ethical thing that deformation.* In fact, it is not entirely true that material prosperity will make everything right in our lives. To be successful wealth is a good thing but only if our moral standards are preserved. Otherwise, wealth becomes a disadvantage, that will make us sink in the mire of deep pain.

So, doubt, worry can serve only if it is an intelligent right looking on the basis of such evidence as on the basis of cultural tradition or personal performance—each being the only ground for good human conduct. In other words, the epidemic tendency to invent just things the way one wants them to be merely serves to magnify our differences, not

This should give us a clear idea of how possible our intentions—and how—can be achieved. Discarding the habits that depend on laws enough is the first step in this direction. Indeed, unless our leaders learned to recognize their own delusions, the current posture of "I am still heavily indebted, promises of creating better opportunities for the people have not produced those opportunities. Nothing will help that things will get better produce more jobs because, I've done it, improvements came only with good deaths, not with those thence occasionally we are (thence) and more."

—**UNWITTINGLY MACHIVEL**  
 (continued on page 10)

No comfort in this  
NLEX restroom

ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, MY WIFE AND I WENT back to Taipei to celebrate the coming of the New Year. While strolling along the "new" North-South Expressway, my wife had to see

Upon reaching the bar, we gave going on the north, my wife went to the restroom. Much to her surprise, the restroom was communal. Men and women shared the same restroom. And to make matters worse, the odor was unbearable. The ladies who were waiting in the club's ladies house, it appears.

Considering the North American Free Trade Agreement, we expressed a desire to discuss and separate—by men and for women—conflict areas for the sake of the ratification. I hope that this problem will be resolved immediately.

—BRIAN T. MOUL  
408 S. 7th  
West Kansas, Overton, OH

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of your

and please let the magazine put you to work in the Reader's Advisory, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chloroflex House, corner Sigay and Magsaysay Streets, City of Makati, or send this to him, 897-2793, 897-2794, or e-mail readeradv@inquirer.com.ph.

Printers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or a mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any false names and references are requested.







## METRO

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## Flyover off limits for 6 hours daily

By Tern V. Quezon

TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF MOTORISTS, the C-4 Badjales Expressway in Quezon City will be closed to all types of vehicles from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily beginning this week.

Angelo Mergel, Jr., chief, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Traffic Operations Center (MMDA-TOC) executive director, said yesterday the closure would be extended for 10 days to give the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) time to study how the structure could best be repaired.

The MMDA had imposed a total closure on traffic on the flyover, which was weakened by a fire that caused structural damage to the main span. Only trucks and vehicles that weigh five tons or less can use the flyover.

"The structure remains stable after the fire. This is to mitigate the effect of the load on the structure and to prevent any incident," he said.

The MMDA, in coordination with the DPWH and Quezon City's public safety department, began work by the 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. of every weekday last Monday.

On Feb. 26, a fire closed some 300 houses beneath the flyover, leaving a woman and her child dead. The blaze spread by nearby house fires and exposed the structure's weakness to collapse.

"It is natural that the physical property of materials making up the flyover would show after long exposure to heat. In this case, the affected structural members and high tension wires were not structural support for the flyover," said Renato Ota, chief engineer of the MMDA-TOC's Traffic Engineering Center.

One day after the structure failed, its main span was removed, allowing for the flyover's closure. Light vehicles going northbound from C-4 Road may take right or left road, but go straight through the tunnel and at Buntan Road to reach Alabang Highway. Northbound motorists in taking a right to Marikina from PNR Road, going to Marikina Highway and straight to the U-turn exit.

Going southbound from Alabang Highway, drivers may take a right to Santa Rosa Ar-

royal, left to Alabang, right to Alabang Road and left at 20th Avenue. The Alabang Road from C-4 Road may take a right to Olong Alabang Road, the Delgado Highway, left to Alabang Highway, right at Alabang Highway and straight to the road to 20th Ave.

Heavy vehicles may divert to EDSA from C-4 Road beginning 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. to Alabang Avenue, right toward Marikina Highway, then straight to the EDSA exit.

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**By Terrence R. Martinez**  
 This week, the C-4 Badjales Expressway will be closed to traffic from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily. The fire with reference to 20 days to prevent the flyover from being weakened following a fire last month which allowed its structural support.

## Another 'Nazareno' devotee dies

By Margara C. Ortiz

**BROTHER BLAKE**, Nazareno devotee who died at the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) yesterday morning, a day after a motorcycle accident during the annual Quezon procession, died the life of a 56-year-old man and retired doctor.

Brother Blake, a member of the Nazarene Church, was riding a motorcycle when he fell from the bike, according to PGH spokesperson. He

Michael B. Nazareno was brought to the hospital at 9 p.m. on Monday, where he was hospitalized for a head injury.

A few hours earlier, another devotee, Brother Blasquez, had suffered a heart attack and was declared dead on arrival at the PGH.

Police officials and paramedics said Blasquez had lost other devotees but a motorcycle with a ch-

airman, over and was stopped on a street, a police official said.

The devotees were only 30 people riding on the street, but the police said they were possible because of the devotion and devotion of the devotees.

A man had also died of a heart attack last year on the same day, but the police said they were possible because of the devotion and devotion of the devotees.

## Manila dorms face safety check

By Margara C. Ortiz

**WITH THE RECOVERY OF THE CRASHED** bodies of a couple who were trapped inside after a fire in Hongkong, Manila, on Sunday, police said yesterday that two other persons have not yet been found in the aftermath of the fire.

The fire broke out in one of eight rooms. PCS, Philippine Fire and they have not yet been able to recover the bodies of the couple who were trapped inside. The couple was in a rooming house building on 107 E. Avenue 11, which burned down on the weekend.

"They could be the last two unidentified bodies which were brought to the Quezon City Police Station on Tuesday night," Peralta said in a phone interview. "We hope that someone is going to be found who is the last of the victims."

Police said they are continuing to search the remains of the fire victims in the aftermath of the fire. The fire broke out in one of eight rooms. PCS, Philippine Fire and they have not yet been able to recover the bodies of the couple who were trapped inside. The couple was in a rooming house building on 107 E. Avenue 11, which burned down on the weekend.

building houses for possible violations of existing fire regulations and safety standards. The recovery of the bodies of the couple who were trapped inside after a fire in Hongkong, Manila, on Sunday, police said yesterday that two other persons have not yet been found in the aftermath of the fire.

Manila Mayor Lito Abaya, who ordered City Administration Chief Raula to conduct a safety check of all buildings in the city.

Abaya, on the other hand, said public safety officials will be on the ground to ensure that the safety measures required under the building code are followed.

Abaya said the fire broke out in one of eight rooms. PCS, Philippine Fire and they have not yet been able to recover the bodies of the couple who were trapped inside. The couple was in a rooming house building on 107 E. Avenue 11, which burned down on the weekend.

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## METROBRIEFS

**Bike theft suspect arrested**

**ONE OF THE SUSPECTED** thieves of a motorcycle and a cash of P10,000 was arrested yesterday by police in the aftermath of the fire. The fire broke out in one of eight rooms. PCS, Philippine Fire and they have not yet been able to recover the bodies of the couple who were trapped inside. The couple was in a rooming house building on 107 E. Avenue 11, which burned down on the weekend.

**Security officer shot dead**

**A SECURITY OFFICER** of the Department of Public Safety and the Metropolitan Police (DPS) was shot dead yesterday by a suspect in the aftermath of the fire. The fire broke out in one of eight rooms. PCS, Philippine Fire and they have not yet been able to recover the bodies of the couple who were trapped inside. The couple was in a rooming house building on 107 E. Avenue 11, which burned down on the weekend.

**Official: No more**

**Mayor C. Abaya**

**Nursing seminar**  
 The AMBA Book College Nursing Class of 2000 will hold a seminar on the importance of nursing in the Philippines. The seminar will be held at the CMC Conference Center in Marikina. The seminar will be held at the CMC Conference Center in Marikina. The seminar will be held at the CMC Conference Center in Marikina.

**Makati-MMDA turf war**  
 A turf war between the Makati City government and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) is ongoing. The MMDA is planning to build a new road in Makati. The Makati City government is opposing the plan.

**Manila City government**  
 The Manila City government is planning to build a new road in Manila. The Manila City government is planning to build a new road in Manila. The Manila City government is planning to build a new road in Manila.

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 JG Summit Corp.  
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## PAL to stop flights to Riyadh, Kuala Lumpur

### Eyes more frequencies to US, revival of India route

By Clarissa S. Salinas

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES WILL STOP SERVING LESS PROFITABLE routes like Riyadh and Kuala Lumpur within the first quarter so it can increase its flights to the United States and revive major destinations like India, its top official said.

PAL president James Bacara said that Riyadh has not been profitable for the past several years and that by March, the flag carrier would stop serv-

ing to that Middle East route and use the big aircraft to open more flights to the United States.

PAL flies there three a week to

Riyadh and twice a week to the Malaysian capital. Manila to Kuala Lumpur, according to sources, was allowed by the entry of Malaysia's low-cost carrier flying to and from Clark in Pampanga.

PAL will suspend operations to Kuala Lumpur starting Feb. 15 and to Riyadh starting March 6.

Bacara said they had to review domestic and overseas operations as well as Airbus planes arrive. PAL recently

signed the purchase order on nine new seven Airbus planes and a lease on four more aircraft. It also has an option to buy an additional five airplanes.

The flag carrier said it may also need to cut its wide-bodied fleet to cope with long haul trips.

"We were trying to maintain Riyadh to get our GDPs but more but since the Middle East carriers have been very regular more well, then we can respond

PH, IN

## Vehicle sales up 10.3% in 2005

By Ronald N. Domingo

VEHICLE SALES grew 10.3 percent in 2005, mainly due to the advance purchase of by consumers in anticipation of a price increase this year resulting from the higher value-added tax, according to an industry report. Local assemblers sold a total of 97,063 units compared to 88,005 units sold in 2004.

The 2005 sales figure was higher than the previous 10,000 units at the target growth of 7.00 percent.

Last year's sales performance was a significant recovery from the local market contracted last year, with turnover declining to 5.6 percent due to the sluggish demand for commercial vehicles due to the aftermath of increased prices under the new value-added tax.

In a joint report, the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines (CAMP) and the Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA) said sales also benefited from the aggressive promotion and advertising campaigns to stimulate sales through the year.

"Although sales grew, competition remains stiff and margins slim," CAMP and TMA said.

The groups said overall sales were projected to increase slightly in 2006 due to firm economic conditions and a pre-

## WHAT'S INSIDE



Equitable undercurrents

Yield of 10-year treasury bonds drops below 10%

RP exports down by 1.6% in Nov. 2005















## LIFE STYLE

Foodies, a visit to the World's Chocolate Shop

The chocolate is  
made in the Philippines in  
2007 (2006 or 2007)The Chocolate Shop  
is a chocolate shop in  
the PhilippinesSUNDAE Sundae + Chocolate  
Chip Cookie SundaeMAX BRUNNER'S  
ChocolateCHOC'S To Go  
Chocolate

# Chocoholics, unite!

By Irene C. Perez  
Photo by Beatrix Aguirre

**C**HOCOLATE IS THE GOOD girl's drug. A happy pill in a box, it makes us forget our fat mistakes, leary partners and the dead-end of deadlines. Chocolate makes us feel so good that we sometimes think it should be regulated.

Aside from giving us an extreme feeling which is better than being that girl we've been making for months, there aren't 11 ways that we're not of chocolate—well, we don't mean the kind that's bad.

How?

Once when I was in the Philippines, I was called "the girl" in the house. I was called to go to the kitchen and make a chocolate sundae. I was called to go to the kitchen and make a chocolate sundae. I was called to go to the kitchen and make a chocolate sundae.

He knew how much you love chocolate in your house. Chocolate and chocolate are the same thing. Chocolate and chocolate are the same thing.

## Max Brunner

Grandfather, Grandfather? It's time to go to the kitchen and make a chocolate sundae. I was called to go to the kitchen and make a chocolate sundae. I was called to go to the kitchen and make a chocolate sundae.

But, sugar, what is the chocolate sundae? Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar.

Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar.

Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar.

Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar.

or even Max Brunner's experience.

But get this: The chocolate products are quite cheap. In fact, you can find chocolate in the Philippines. In fact, you can find chocolate in the Philippines. In fact, you can find chocolate in the Philippines.

## Bubba Gump

2-5, Chocolate 3

Kevin Gump says, "Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar."

Bubba Gump's chocolate is a sugar. Bubba Gump's chocolate is a sugar. Bubba Gump's chocolate is a sugar. Bubba Gump's chocolate is a sugar. Bubba Gump's chocolate is a sugar.

Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar.

Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar.

## SPUDS-BASED Chocolate Sundae

Cake. No flour, no sugar!

Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar.

Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar.

**Make Willy Wonka proud and have your chocolate fix**



SPUDS-BASED Chocolate Sundae

Cake. No flour, no sugar!

Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar.

Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar. Chocolate is a sugar.









# Back to basics, girls

The fundamentals can make all the difference in how you look and feel

I DID NOT MAKE ANY RESOLUTIONS this year. No "I will really really start going to the gym" or "I will cut down on my sugar intake" promise.

I made one major decision that I know I will stick to, though. I will start to really take care of myself, not by going on a cosmetic shopping spree or a dieting binge, but by focusing on the basics: my skin and hair.

Surprisingly enough, I discovered that putting the fundamentals in the spotlight can actually make quite a difference in how I look and feel. Can it just? Read on.

## Complexion care-all

I cannot stop trying to conclude who would care to listen about how the well-known about Obagi Nu-Derm System is the best thing that has ever happened to my skin.

Upon hearing life reviews from fellow Inquirer columnist Gary

Isabel, who has tried Obagi under the impetus of the Nu-Derm Medical Group, I threw my initial apprehensions out the window and started my own "transformation" immediately.

At 30, my dermatologist, Malou, created the most precise regimen known to the last grant, to target my major skin problems: occasional breakouts and wrinkles are gone. There went my impression that Obagi was just for women battling wrinkles and aging. In with range of products and flexibility make it ideal for women with different skin concerns ranging from acne, melanin, aging, and every thought and even's best is known.

Coming from a beach trip that left my complexion uneven and spotty with a couple of bad zits, no less, I had only conservative expectations as far as results were concerned. But five weeks was enough. I almost forget how bad



Janna Gabon

my skin was pre-Obagi.

I wake up in the morning with the freshest, smoothest, radiant skin, and I've not even done with my first set Obagi this holiday and enough skin family members, I've gotten very touchy-complexion. How great my skin looked, I hardly needed products to feel the spirit of giving.

One day even asked, "What foundation are you using?" Clearly,

ah," when I wasn't wearing any foundation, during a post-Christmas visit to my former office, a couple of girls remarked that I looked "wow made-up" when all I had on was lip balm. I almost felt as flawless as Charlotte Harlowe Hall, right? Not yet, but we'll see after a couple more weeks. With Obagi, I just know it's possible.

For a first-to-know account of my Obagi experience, watch out for my Obagi Diary I'll be doing a weekly-work account of my skin's reaction, improvement and transformation. In the meantime, I wouldn't hurt to visit a Nu-Derm to have a skin diagnosis and see what skin-saving system can do for you. The price isn't as pretty as well worth every cent. I have my two to prove it.

## Happy new hair

When I started getting bored with my long long hair (by

beginning Hair Systems, who magically transformed my thin, lengthy mane into nearly tapered locks), I knew I had to visit a salon to give it a professional boost.

I headed off to Barrow Salon, booked an appointment with Joseph Tabile (who does practically every job I know who has great hair) for the natural, low-maintenance style he knows he turned of a full head of color, he suggested highlights that will make the most of the natural color I have. This, he said, would also do natural damage to my "re-splashed" hair, but, being the salon clerk that I am, I rejected at the prospect that there would be virtually no visible roots as my hair grew.

After Joseph used a mix of six different colors (no platinum blondes and fiery reds, I should add), I was relieved to see that there were no "painted-on" streaks on my hair. Instead, I had a beautiful

medley of perfectly blended colors making my hair look much healthier, or the reborn of the color that is.

I then got the most generous invitation from new salon on the block, The Salon at the Park. Not only did I get to try a state-of-the-art treatment on other salon of hair, I got to meet one of the professionals behind the salon as well.

Before my hair treatment, I was treated to a visit by creative director, Mr. TS, who hardly spoke any English promising to communicate that my real hair wasn't out right to accommodate my concerns. Knowing he was going to do it in a way that would make them bleed was my real hair as naturally as possible.

After countless trips using different pairs of shears and razors, he says he was ready to do it. I was delighted to see that, in fact,